

Minutes of the meeting of Uppingham Town Council held at the Town Hall, High Street East, Uppingham, Rutland – 7.30pm, Tuesday 3 September 2019 - DRAFT

156/19 1 - Chair's opening remarks:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed the new Town Clerk, Deborah Bettles, thanking Peter Leppard (locum Clerk) for his services to date and ongoing for an interim period of up to one month to allow the new Clerk to settle into the role. The Chair noted that the 'Uppingham in Bloom' results were due 18th September 2019.

Resolution: It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Richard Reeve and agreed to suspend (11 in favour, 3 against), for the remainder of this meeting, the requirement (in Standing Order 2.3.10) to stand when speaking.

157/19 2 - Attendance register and apologies for absence:

David Casewell (Chair), Stephen Rozak, David Ainslie, Liz Clarke, Alec Crombie, Christine Edwards, Sam Findlay, Lucy Lewin, Peter Rees, Richard Reeve, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson, Miranda Jones, Cornelius Vincent-Enright.

Marc Oxley (County Councillor), Locum Town Clerk Peter Leppard and Clerk Deborah Bettles were also present.

There were no apologies for absence.

158/19 3 - Declaration of members' interests and applications for dispensation:

Declarations of interest received from:

David Ainslie – items 9 & 10, non-pecuniary

Mark Shaw – item 10, non-pecuniary

Peter Rees – item 10, non-pecuniary

Christine Evans – item 10, non-pecuniary

Ron Simpson – item 10, non-pecuniary

Alec Crombie – item 9, non-pecuniary

David Casewell – item 9, non-pecuniary

Lucy Lewin – item 7 (Clerk's Report, item 7.4 - Citizens Advice Bureau) – non-pecuniary

159/19 4 - Recall of decisions by Council: Nil

160/19 5 – Minutes of previous meeting:

Full Council Meeting on 6 August 2019. Resolution: It was proposed by Cornelius Vincent-Enright, seconded by Peter Rees and unanimously agreed that the minutes be approved.

161/19 6 - An opportunity for the public to speak: Two members of the public were present. One member of the public spoke against the site of the affordable homes project (Uppingham Homes CLT, item 10 on the agenda) and another member of the public spoke against the current proposals for an updated younger children's play area on Tod's Piece (Clerk's report, item 7.5 on the agenda)

162/19 7 - Clerk's Report and actions since last meeting

1. The new Town Clerk, Deborah Bettles, joined us on 28 Aug. Her first training day is at LRALC on Monday 2 Sep, with several subsequent dates also booked.

Deborah, on Fri 30 Aug, started a handover of the Finance (and market) duties from Susan Awcock, who will be leaving us as soon as that handover is complete.

Deborah and I will both attend the full Council on 3 Sep, with the intention that Deborah will clerk the meeting herself in October.

Deborah's usual days in the office will be Tue-Fri. I am available for support for as long as is necessary.

2. The usual days of work for Kellie, the Asst Clerk, have changed from 1 Sep, to Mon-Wed.
3. During August the defective floor in the Council chamber was repaired. We are currently seeking estimates for the repair of the Police office roof which is leaking (though not badly).
4. Citizens' Advice are enquiring about running a 3-hour session each Thursday in the Members' Room. However, they are asking for a reduced-rate hire fee. Given that such sessions might be seen as of benefit to the wider local community, Councillors' views on agreeing a special rate with CAB would be welcomed.
5. 2 grant applications from us are currently in progress re the Tod's Piece playground project - with the National Lottery and FCC Communities (formerly WREN). Both are some weeks away yet from producing an outcome. A SurveyMonkey consultation (which will close later this month) re which is the best of the 3 possible designs has produced a strong number of responses.
6. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk are meeting the Leader and Chief Exec of RCC on 24 Sep for a general liaison discussion. Our 3 Sep meeting includes an item to decide any issues which need raising at that meeting.

General consensus and advice to the Clerk was that as Citizens Advice are providing a free community service to the residents of Uppingham that it would be fair to offer use of the Member's Room at the Town Hall, free of charge.

163/19 8 - Financial Report to 31 August 2019, and Accounts for Payment

Resolution: Proposed by David Casewell, seconded by Christine Edwards and unanimously agreed to defer consideration of approval of the financial report until the full Council meeting on 2 October 2019.

Resolution: Proposed by Sam Findlay, seconded by Richard Reeve and unanimously agreed that the accounts for payment for August (£10,995.30) be approved [appendix 1].

164/19 9 – Participation in celebratory Twinning Committee event and consideration of financial contribution

Resolution: It was proposed by Richard Reeve, seconded by Sam Findlay and agreed (9 in favour, 5 abstentions) to contribute funds of £1500. The mechanism for funds allocation to be agreed by the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) committee.

165/19 10 – (a) Opportunities presented by Uppingham Homes CLT proposal and (b) allocation of CIL reserve funds to same

A presentation was received from Ron Simpson outlining the Uppingham Homes CLT proposal and current status with a following discussion relating to this and the proposal for an allocation of funds from the CIL reserve.

Resolution: It was proposed by David Casewell, seconded by Cornelius Vincent-Enright and agreed (10 in favour, 4 abstentions) for the Council to support in principle the activities of Uppingham Homes CLT and to hold an additional full Council meeting within the next seven days to confirm its position regarding CIL expenditure for this project.

An additional full Council meeting is scheduled for 10 September 2019 in this regard.

166/19 11 – List of Uppingham Town Council (UTC) Projects

Resolution: List of projects tabled for informative purposes and it was agreed this represented the Council's current workload.

167/19 12 – UTC Strategic Plan

Resolution: It was proposed by David Ainslie, seconded by David Casewell and unanimously that item 12, consideration of the next steps toward completion of UTC’s strategic plan, be deferred to the full Council meeting on 2 October 2019.

168/19 13 – Items for discussion at meeting with RCC

Resolution: List of items tabled for informative purposes and it was agreed this represented the items to be raised for discussion with RCC. David Ainslie raised the topic of defibrillators to be added to the list, David Casewell requested that an email be sent to RCC separately in this regard.

169/19 14 – Reports from Committees or Meetings of UTC

Resolution: Proposed by Richard Reeve, seconded by Peter Rees and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 21 August 2019 be received.

Resolution: Proposed by David Ainslie, seconded by Cornelius Vincent-Enright and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Advisory Group held on 15 August 2019 be received.

170/19 15 – Planning Applications:

Resolution: Proposed by Richard Reeve, seconded by Mark Shaw and unanimously agreed that the Council has no objection to application 2019/0866/CAT (67 High Street East, Uppingham – reduce height of tree).

171/19 16 – Correspondence

Resolution: Rutland Kino – interest in use of Town Hall – deferred as an agenda item for the full council meeting on 2 October 2019

Resolution: Rutland Sign Posters’ Network - noted

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.